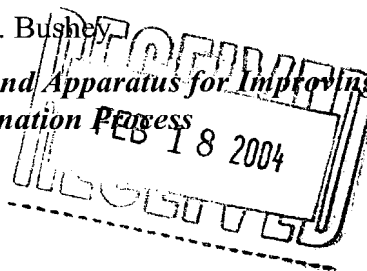




IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: WU, et al.
Serial No.: 09/848,975
Filing Date: May 3, 2001
Confirmation No. 8758
Group Art Unit: 1724
Examiner: Charles S. Bushey
Title: *Method and Apparatus for Improving
a Fractionation Process*

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Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Willie Jiles

Willie Jiles

Express Mailing Label No. EV 324649310 US

Date of Deposit: February 6, 2004

Dear Sir:

Response Pursuant To 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

In response to the Office Action mailed January 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following amendments and comments as set forth below.